

June 29, 2015

Tricia Orme
Office of Legal Services
275 E. Main St. 5 W-8
Frankfort, KY 40601

Re: 900 KAR 5:020
2015-2017 State Health Plan

Dear Ms. Orme:

I am writing on behalf of Greenview Regional Hospital in Bowling Green to comment on the Cabinet's proposal to remove ambulance services from the 2015-2017 Kentucky State Health Plan. We understand that this would not remove the requirement that those wishing to establish an ambulance service, or to enlarge the service area of an existing ambulance service, must first obtain a certificate of need. A CON would still be required, but the application would qualify for nonsubstantive review. Greenview supports this proposed change.

Under nonsubstantive review, existing providers in the service area and all other affected persons would still have the right to a hearing on an application. They would still have the opportunity to appear at the hearing, to be represented by counsel to present evidence and arguments in opposition to the application and cross-examine all witnesses. They would still have the right to appeal any adverse decision to Franklin Circuit Court.

The main effect of moving ambulance applications to nonsubstantive review would be to change the manner in which the hearing is conducted. The burden of going forward with evidence would shift to the opponents. They would be required to go first in the hearing and present evidence that the proposal is not needed. After the opponents had presented their evidence, the applicant would then call its own witnesses and present evidence that the proposal is needed.

This is particularly appropriate in instances where the existing ambulance services are not operated by governmental entities. We understand this first-hand in Bowling Green. Greenview and others have attempted for years to obtain data, protocols and other information from the existing ambulance service in Bowling Green through Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") requests. That ambulance service, which is owned by neither the city of Bowling Green nor Warren County, has consistently refused to provide any such information. It has based this refusal upon the legal position that it is not subject to FOIA requirements. Because of this total lack of transparency, it makes perfect sense for the Cabinet to require the

Ms. Tricia Orme
June 29, 2015
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existing ambulance service, the entity with access to all the data and other information, to go first in a hearing.

There have long been problems with the existing ambulance service in Warren County. Perhaps the most egregious is the consistent refusal by this ambulance service to transport patients to the facility of their choice. We have been informed of numerous instances where a patient, family member or physician has requested that the patient be transported to Greenview, but the ambulance provider has refused and has taken the patient to the other hospital in Bowling Green, thus putting patient safety at risk.

In a very recent incident, a patient became sick at home, called the ambulance service and asked to be transported to Greenview multiple times. Instead, the ambulance service took the patient to the other hospital, placed that patient in a wheelchair and left the patient in the registration area. The patient then called a family member on a cell phone who came to the other hospital and took the patient by private vehicle to Greenview. The patient was then treated in Greenview's emergency room within a matter of minutes.

This forced transportation to the Medical Center is especially egregious in terms of heart attack ("STEMI") patients. It is extremely important to get a STEMI patient to the nearest hospital as soon as possible. It is indeed a truism that "time equals muscle" with regard to STEMI patients. The same level and coverage of interventional cardiology is provided at both Greenview and the Medical Center. Both use the same interventional cardiologists. Greenview has equivalent or better outcomes. Hospitals in surrounding counties routinely send, and EMS providers in those counties routinely bring, STEMI patients to Greenview. There are approximately 15 STEMI cases per month in Warren County. However, since we began tracking it in the fall of 2013, the Medical Center EMS has not brought a single STEMI patient to Greenview. Unfortunately, incidents such as this occur far too often in Bowling Green. The availability of a second ambulance service will greatly reduce this problem by providing patients an alternative choice.

We have heard concerns that removing ambulance services from the State Health Plan could harm city or county operated ambulance services and could result in the proliferation of Class II and Class III ambulance providers that only provide scheduled transports and transfers between facilities. If the Cabinet shares these concerns, we suggest a compromise position to alleviate these issues.

Criterion 1 in the current SHP requires an applicant in a service area where the city or county holds an ambulance license to give notice of its application to the "appropriate local legislative body." Criterion 3 imposes specific proof requirements for applicants for Class II or Class III services, which do not apply to applicants for Class I services.

Ms. Tricia Orme
June 29, 2015
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We would support a change that kept certain types of ambulance services in the State Health Plan. The SHP component could be labeled something like: "Class II and Class III Ambulance Services and Class I Ambulance Services Where the City or County Licensed To Provide an Ambulance Service." The existing Criteria 1 and 3 could remain. The effect of this would be that only Class I ambulance services where there are no city or county ambulance services are removed from the State Health Plan.

This would serve several purposes. First, it would only provide for nonsubstantive review to applicants for Class I ambulance services, and not allow for nonsubstantive review for applicants who only want to provide scheduled transfers. Second, for those Class I applicants, it would only provide for nonsubstantive review where the sole existing provider is a private entity that is not subject to FOIA requests. This would shift the burden of going forward in cases where all data and information was not available to a potential applicant, but would not in cases where the applicant could get that information from a FOIA request.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments. As always, we support Kentucky's Certificate of Need Program and will continue to work with the Cabinet in the health planning process.

Sincerely,



Kevin Kelly, M.D.
Chairman of the Board



Frankfort
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
PUTTING YOU FIRST

299 King's Daughters Drive
Frankfort, KY 40601

502-875-5240

frankfortregional.com



June 30, 2015

Tricia Orme
Office of Legal Services
275 E. Main St. 5 W-B
Frankfort, KY 40601

Re: 900 KAR 5:020
2015-2017 State Health Plan

Dear Ms. Orme:

I am writing on behalf of Frankfort Regional Medical Center ("FRMC") to comment on the Cabinet's proposal to remove ambulance services from the 2015-2017 Kentucky State Health Plan. We understand that this would not remove the requirement that those wishing to establish an ambulance service, or to enlarge the service area of an existing ambulance service, must first obtain a certificate of need. A CON would still be required, but the application would qualify for nonsubstantive review. FRMC supports this proposed change.

Under nonsubstantive review, existing providers in the service area and all other affected persons would still have the right to a hearing on an application. They would still have the opportunity to appear at the hearing, to be represented by counsel, to present evidence and arguments in opposition to the application and cross-examine all witnesses. They would still have the right to appeal any adverse decision to Franklin Circuit Court.

The main effect of moving ambulance applications to nonsubstantive review would be to change the manner in which the hearing is conducted. The burden of going forward would shift to the opponents. They would be required to go first in the hearing and present evidence that the proposal is not needed. After the opponents had presented their evidence, the applicant would then call its own witnesses and present evidence that the proposal is needed.

This is particularly appropriate in instances where the existing ambulance is not operated by a governmental entity that is subject to Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") requests. In those cases, the opponent has all the data and much of the other information concerning need, and is not required to share it with others pursuant to a FOIA request. In such circumstances it makes perfect sense for the Cabinet to require the existing ambulance service to go first in a hearing.

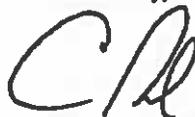
Ms. Tricia Orme
June 30, 2015
Page Two

We have heard concerns that removing ambulance services from the State Health Plan could harm city or county operated ambulance services and could result in the proliferation of Class II and Class III ambulance providers that only provide scheduled transports and transfers between facilities. If the Cabinet shares these concerns, we would support a compromise position to alleviate these issues.

One such compromise has been suggested by Greenview Regional Hospital. In that proposal, the Cabinet would keep certain types of ambulance services in the State Health Plan—Class II and III ambulance services in Class I services in areas already served by licensed city or county ambulance services. We would support that proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments. As always, we support Kentucky's Certificate of Need Program and will continue to work with the Cabinet in the health planning process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CP', is written over a faint, illegible background.

Chip Peal, CEO



WKONA
165 NATCHEZ TRACE, SUITE 100
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42103-7947
(270) 782-7800

June 17, 2015

Trisha Orme, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of Legal Services
275 East Main Street, 5 W-B
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Ms. Orme:

This letter is in support of Administrative Regulation Amendment to 900KAR5:020. Warren County has 2 hospitals but only 1 ambulance service owned by one of the hospitals. The hospital preferentially transports patients to its emergency room regardless of patients' wishes, emergency status or even closer proximity to the second hospital. Both hospitals offer similar services. A second EMG service would allow for patient choice as well as decrease in delays in transfer.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Lynn D. Olson, M.D.
LDO/ml/KO

Dictated 06/17/2015 1:27:05 PM
Transcribed 06/17/2015 2:54:08 PM



WKONA
165 NATCHEZ TRACE, SUITE 100
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42103-7947
(270) 782-7800

June 17, 2015

Tricia Orme
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of Legal Services
275 E. Main St., 5W-B
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Ms. Orme:

This letter is sent in support of the CON application process for Greenview Regional Hospital obtaining ambulance service. As a practicing orthopaedic surgeon, I see great disparity in the distribution of trauma patients in our community. This practice has been present for decades. Patients who sustain orthopaedic trauma such as fractures, dislocations, or extremity injuries, are frequently picked up by local ambulances and drive right past Greenview in order to take the patient to the Medical Center Emergency Room. Over the years, we have had several patients who have actually requested to go to Greenview but this request was ignored.

The distribution of patients to the two area local hospitals has not been equitable for a long time. I do not feel that personally it would meet or pass the criteria of avoiding self-referral.

I feel that having a competing ambulance service would be the most fair and equitable way of servicing the trauma patients of Warren and surrounding counties.

Respectfully,

Craig A. Beard, M.D.
CAB/amk/KO
Dictated 06/17/2015 11:31:40 AM
Transcribed 06/17/2015 11:55:29 AM



WKONA
165 NATCHEZ TRACE, SUITE 100
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42103-7947
(270) 782-7800

June 25, 2015

Trisha Orme, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of Legal Services
275 East Main Street 5 W-B
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Ms. Orme,

I am the current president at Western Kentucky Orthopaedic and Neurosurgical Associates (WKONA) located in Bowling Green, KY. We are an independent group of physicians who provide care for patients at both The Medical Center of Bowling Green (MCBG) and Greenview Regional Hospital (GRH). Our services are often needed for care of injured patients who present to the emergency department by way of EMS transportation. That service in Warren County is owned and operated by MCBG.

The majority of these patients have been, for years, transported to the MCBG for care and I am sure there exists ample data to reflect this assertion. There is actually a line on the transport sheet scribed by the EMS worker that usually states "patient requests Medical Center." I am certain that many times they actually do. I am equally certain that many times they do not, however. Some patients report that they were not in fact asked nor was a choice offered. A traveler injured on the road would have no knowledge of alternatives, and an elderly, confused, non-oriented patient likewise can give no such informed consent.

In the past, this situation only meant to us (the provider) that we would render the majority of our fracture care at the MCBG. It was simply how things were. The situation is different now; however, as the MCBG has recently entered the physician provider market with its recent hiring of two neurosurgeons and one (soon to be three) orthopedic surgeons. I am certain our concerns here are obvious but to put it bluntly, we are not competing with a hospital that has a robust staff of hospitalist physicians, orthopedic and neurosurgical staff, and full and total control of the only existing EMS service in the county.

MCBG will assert that patients will always be given a choice of their health care provider, but the reality is that far too frequently, they are not. Many primary care physicians no longer admit patients. In the ER setting they are likely to be admitted to the hospitalist service as they are now "unassigned" patients. If the patient has a hip fracture, the "on-call" orthopedist may never know that patient exists unless consulted. To whom would the MCBG employed hospitalist (now the patient's attending physician) likely consult for this fracture?

If the Cabinet for Health and Family Services is reviewing any such proposal that might allow parity in the provision of transportation services, we WKONA are hopeful that they might take into account this closed loop of services that the MCBG has now created.

Sincerely,

Phillip J. Singer, MD
PJS/KO

Dictated 06/25/2015 8:00:26 AM
Transcribed 06/25/2015 8:25:49 PM



WKONA
165 NATCHEZ TRACE, SUITE 100
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42103-7947
(270) 782-7800

June 24, 2015

Trisha Orme, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of Legal Services
275 East Main Street 5 W-B
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Ms. Orme,

I am writing today in support of proposed administrative regulation amendment to 900 KAR 5:020. As I am sure you are aware Warren is the only county in Kentucky with two full service hospitals and only one EMS service that is coincidentally owned by one of the hospitals. This obviously creates a conflict of interest with delivery of patient care to Warren County residents. I have even had personal experience where patients have requested ambulance transport to Greenview and have instead by taken to The Medical Center only to relate to me later that they would have preferred to have been transported to Greenview, but were not afforded that choice by the ambulance service.

I think it should be apparent that the patients should have certainly a significant voice in their preference as to which facility they are transported to when using EMS service here in Warren County and this matter should be addressed by the state legislature in order to prevent continued preferential use of The Medical Center by the EMS services at times I believe against patient's preferences. I appreciate your support in this matter.

Sincerely,

David B. Richards, MD

DBR/KO

Dictated 06/24/2015 12:47:17 PM

Transcribed 06/24/2015 2:25:16 PM



Bowling Green Medical Clinic
1791 Ashley Circle
Bowling Green, KY 42014
phone: 270-781-4090
fax: 270-842-3133
BowlingGreenMedicalClinic.com

15 June, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of support for Greenview Regional Hospital's pursuit of Emergency Medical Services. As a primary care physician, I see significant value in the added quality and efficiency that would accompany a competing EMS system in Bowling Green, KY.

The result would be better for patient care and for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James K. Phillips, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

James K. Phillips, Jr., M.D.



Bowling Green Medical Clinic
1791 Ashley Circle
Bowling Green, KY 42014
phone: 270-781-4090
fax: 270-842-3133
BowlingGreenMedicalClinic.com

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is James O. Jarvis. I have practiced medicine in Bowling Green, KY since October 1, 1983. I support the Cabinet for Health and Family Services in the proposed changes to the certificate of need review criteria for ambulance services in Kentucky. Warren County having the ability to approve a second EMS provider will result in improved patient care. Over the years there have been multiple instances in which a patient of mine has been transported to The Medical Center's emergency room against their preferences. An example of these instances includes EMS telling the patient or their families that Greenview Regional Hospital did not have the services they required when in fact Greenview was perfectly capable of treating the patient. In other instances when my patients requested to go to Greenview Regional Hospital, EMS told my patients that they had spoken with The Medical Center's ER physician via radio and therefore they are now patients of that physician and must continue on to The Medical Center. There have also been several instances over the years where patients have been transported to The Medical Center ER despite Greenview Regional Hospital being the closest facility.

In emergency situations time is a key factor in determining the outcome for patients. Any delay or additional travel time could be the difference between life and death for patients. I believe the proposed changes will ultimately increase the quality of care and open accessibility to emergency services in our community. For these reasons I fully support the Cabinet of Health and Family Services in the proposed changes to the certificate of need review criteria.

Respectfully,



James O. Jarvis, M.D.



Bowling Green Medical Clinic
1791 Ashley Circle
Bowling Green, KY 42014
phone: 270-781-4090
fax: 270-842-3133
BowlingGreenMedicalClinic.com

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Dr. James R. Burt. I have been practicing medicine in Bowling Green, KY for forty-five years. I support the Cabinet for Health and Family Services in the proposed changes to the certificate of need review criteria for ambulance services in Kentucky. I support the proposals that will allow a second EMS provider in Warren County. The current statistics are alarming with the existing EMS service. Seconds matter in emergency situations and bypassing an ER to travel across town to another hospital can be the difference between life and death for that patient. With the proposed changes to the certificate of need criteria the Burdon of proof does not go away.

Sincerely,



James R. Burt, M.D.



Bowling Green Medical Clinic
1791 Ashley Circle
Bowling Green, KY 42014
phone: 270-781-4090
fax: 270-842-3133
BowlingGreenMedicalClinic.com

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in support of the Cabinet of Health and Family Services proposing to change the certificate of need criteria of ambulance services in Kentucky. I believe that Warren County should have the ability to allow a second EMS provider. The current EMS service sometimes has inefficiencies that can prevent patients from getting the best possible care. Adding an additional service would ultimately improve patient care in the community.

Sincerely,

William T. Wade, M.D.



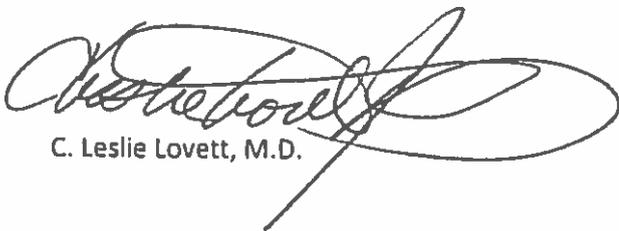
Bowling Green Medical Clinic
1791 Ashley Circle
Bowling Green, KY 42014
phone: 270-781-4090
fax: 270-842-3133
BowlingGreenMedicalClinic.com

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Dr. Leslie Lovett and I have been practicing Medicine in Bowling Green, KY since 1978. As a primary care clinician in the community I support the Cabinet for Health and Family Services in the proposed changes to the certificate of need review criteria for ambulance services in Kentucky.

I believe the quality of patient care would improve and the accessibility to this care would increase if these changes were to be implemented. The bottom line is better health outcomes for patients in Warren County.

Sincerely,



C. Leslie Lovett, M.D.



Bowling Green Medical Clinic
1791 Ashley Circle
Bowling Green, KY 42014
phone: 270-781-4090
fax: 270-842-3133
BowlingGreenMedicalClinic.com

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Dr. Chesley Kemp. I've been practicing medicine in Bowling Green, KY since 1976. I support the Cabinet for Health and Family Services in the proposed changes to the certificate of need review criteria for ambulance services in Kentucky.

I see value in Warren County having the ability to approve an additional EMS service. I have a personal example of how an additional EMS system in Warren County can improve the care people receive in our community. My daughter was in the emergency room and needed to be transferred to a hospital in Louisville, KY. She was in extreme pain and had to wait in the ER for an extraordinary length of time until an ambulance was free to transport her to Louisville, KY. Not only did she have her experience prolonged but she occupied a bed in the emergency room that could have been given to another patient.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chesley Kemp, M.D.

W. Chesley Kemp, M.D.

June 25, 2015

Tricia Orme
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of Legal Services
275 East Main Street, SW-B
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Ms. Orme:

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is proposing to change the certificate of need (CON) review criteria for ambulance services in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Instead, they are proposing to allow a non-substantial review process, which still requires the burden of proof. I support the proposed changes and feel it benefits Warren County, KY and other areas where there is a need. The local EMS in Warren County is owned by the Medical Center of Bowling Green. I receive multiple complaints on a routine basis from patients I serve as well as other physicians about the need for another EMS service in Bowling Green. The current EMS does not consistently honor the patient's request or transport the patient to the closest and most appropriate facility. In fact, not one STEMI (heart attack) has been transported to Greenview Regional Hospital in the past 2 years, a facility with the same level of interventional cardiology coverage.

I support the proposed EMS changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marty Casebier, M.D.", written in a cursive style.

Marty Casebier, M.D.



June 15, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written in support of the CON process. This does not always allow the patients to be taken to the closest hospital but the hospital that owns the ambulance service, often times bypassing the closer hospital in an emergency. Since, the Warren County EMS is owned by the Medical Center they self-refer to The Medical Center. I feel that additional ambulance service vendors are discouraged from filing an application based on the time consuming process that is currently in place. I am requesting that you approve this amendment. Our patients deserve a choice a when choosing emergency transportation.

Thank you for your time and consideration on the EMS situation in Warren County, Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Johnson, MD

June 15, 2015

I am writing this letter, in regards to an imbalanced EMS services for Warren County which disrupts my ability to practice medicine and does not allow the patients a choice of where they would like to receive their healthcare services. Roughly 12% of all 911 transports come to Greenview per Fathbruckner.

As a physician, several of my patients have expressed their opinions and complaints regarding the Bowling Green Medical Center EMS not taking them to the hospital of their choice but instead EMS expressed their opinion regarding where the patient should go for care and steers them to BGMC. Time is important during any emergency. It is important for the patient to be taken to the closet emergency room, which could be the difference between life and death.

Warren County is the only county in Kentucky that has 2 hospitals and one EMS service where the ownership is solely one hospital. I have never heard of such an odd monopoly of emergency transportation and perceive that the Medical Center EMS inappropriately steers the patients to their facility. Both ERs provide the same level of service and the community's physicians practice at both hospitals.

The not-for-profit EMS is structured as an LLC, which excludes them from complying with the Open Records Law in Kentucky. Therefore, policies, procedures and other business information are not available to the public, physicians and lawmakers.

Bowling Green is the 3rd largest city in Kentucky and has the population that supports both hospitals. The presence of two hospitals decreases delays in emergency transfers and is better able to handle the future growth without placing additional burden on one hospital.

All outlying county EMS services utilize both Warren County hospitals to the benefit of the patients. I think it would be in the best interest of fair competition and benefit Warren county's citizens if BGMC would be divested of their EMS. An independent EMS would help to reduce this self-interested bias in emergency transportation.

I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Dwight H. Sutton, MD, MBA, PT


GREENVIEW MEDICAL GROUP
The Glasser Clinic
Jack G. Glasser, M.D., FAAFP
Family Medicine
Board Certified

June 15, 2015

To Whom It May Concern;

I have practiced medicine in Bowling Green, KY for over thirty years and have observed ambulance services evolve during that time. We currently have only one ambulance service available. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services has proposed an amendment to Certificate of Need criteria for new ambulance service applications. I support this amendment, and I am asking that you vote yes on this proposal.

Our current process requires a lengthy and expensive process for anyone seeking to provide ambulance services. The end result is new vendors are discouraged from completing the application process due to cost and man-hours involved. It is my opinion that relaxing the application process would open up the field and allow for more equitable and fair emergency transportation options.

Please approve this amendment. I am available if you wish to discuss this further.

Thank you.



Jack G. Glasser, MD



Kevin M. Kelly, M.D., FAAP, FACP, FAARM
Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
Board Certified

June 15, 2015

To Whom It May Concern;

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is proposing an amendment to relax Certificate of Need requirements for new ambulance service applications. As a Medical Doctor with experience in several states, I believe that our current application and approval process should be streamlined to allow more equitable service for all patients. Currently, in communities such as Bowling Green with only one ambulance service, patients are taken to the facility that operates the ambulance. Additional ambulance services are essentially "locked out" by the long and cumbersome application process.

I urge you to **vote yes for this amendment**. I am available if you have questions.

Thank you.

Kevin Kelly, MD



GREENVIEW MEDICAL GROUP
The Glasser Clinic

Jack G. Glasser, M.D., FAFAP
Family Medicine
Board Certified

Todd Douglas, M.D., FAFAP
Family Medicine
Board Certified

Kevin Kelly, M.D., AAP
Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
Board Certified

Lisa Grimes, APRN
Advanced Practice
Registered Nurse

June 15, 2015

To Whom It May Concern;

As a Primary Care Physician in Warren County, I am in favor of the amendment proposed by The Cabinet for Health and Family Services to streamline Certificate of Need for new ambulance service applications. Our current application process is lengthy and expensive for new applicants. I believe it is in the best interests of our patients to have additional ambulance services available, and not be limited to a service owned and operated by one facility. In Bowling Green, for example, the ambulance service is owned and operated by The Medical Center, and patients are routinely routed to that facility versus Greenview Regional Hospital. Patients in an emergency situation will allow the driver to make a facility decision for them, which might not always be in the patient's best interests.

I am requesting that you approve this amendment. Please call me if you have any questions.

Thank you.



James Todd Douglas, MD



Jack G. Glasser, M.D., FAAFP
Family Medicine
Board Certified

Todd Douglas, M.D., FAAFP
Family Medicine
Board Certified

Kevin Kelly, M.D., AAP
Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
Board Certified

Lisa Grimes, APRN
Advanced Practice
Registered Nurse

June 15, 2015

To Whom It May Concern;

I understand that The Cabinet for Health and Family Services has proposed an amendment for reviewing Certificate of Need for new ambulance services.

I am an Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner and I am in favor of this amendment. I believe that the cumbersome and lengthy burden of proof regarding Certificate of Need is not necessary for new ambulance service applications. I believe that additional ambulance service vendors are discouraged from filing an application based on the rigorous and time consuming process currently in place.

I am requesting that you approve this amendment. I believe that our patients deserve a choice when choosing emergency transportation.

Thank you.

Lisa Grimes, APRN

June 17, 2015

Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of Legal Services
275 East Main Street, 5W-B
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Tricia Orme:

I am writing you in regards to the proposed administrative regulation amendment to 900 KAR 5:020. I am for this amendment.

As a practicing surgeon in Kentucky, I operate at both medical centers in Bowling Green, Kentucky; however, I am primarily affiliated at TriStart Greenview Regional Hospital, which only receives roughly eleven percent of all 9-1-1 transports.

I am for the amendment as I often see delays in EMS service, which could easily be prevented by having another provider. Bowling Green has the capacity and volume to be able to handle an additional service provider.

Thank you in advance for listening to my concerns.

Respectfully,



Michael L. Campbell, MD
Board Certified Surgeon

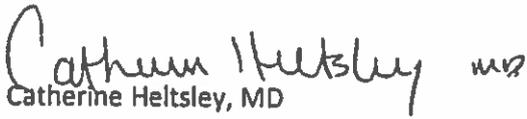
Catherine Heltsley, M.D.
Hematology Oncology
1325 Andrea Street Suite 107
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42104
Office (270) 796-8881 Fax (270) 796-8558

June 18, 2015

To whom it may concern,

This letter is written to support the certificate of need change for emergency medical services. The current process puts undue burden on patients and their families. I believe it is in the best interest of my patients to allow transport to hospital of patients' choice.

Thank you,


Catherine Heltsley, MD

Kentucky Radiation Therapy Associates

1728 Rockingham Avenue • Bowling Green, KY 42104
Phone: 270-904-0845 • Fax: 270-904-2651 • Email: KRTA@insightbb.com

June 17, 2015

Tricia Orme

Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Office of Legal Services

275 East Main St, 5W-B

Frankfort KY 40621

Dear Ms Orme:

Please be informed that I am in favor of the new CON process. The previous CON process was cumbersome, expensive, and I believe provided a barrier for new entry. This inhibited a competitive market from providing the best service through competition. By allowing multiple transportation services, I believe my patients will be better able to choose the hospital of their own liking. Thank you for your attention to this matter and we appreciate your service to the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,



Richard Seither MD



Wayne Bush, M.D., F.A.C.S.

6-25-15

Tricia Orme

Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Dear Ms. Orme:

This letter is written in support of the CON process. This new CON would expedite the review process. Warren County is the only county in Kentucky that has two hospitals and only one EMS that is owned by one of the hospitals. This does not always allow the patient to be taken to the closest hospital, but the hospital that owns the ambulance service, oftentimes bypassing the closer hospital in an emergency. Time is extremely important during any emergency.

Thank you for your time and consideration in the EMS situation in Warren County, Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Wayne Bush, MD

WB/vj

June 15, 2015

Tricia Orme
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office Of Legal Services
275 East Main Street 5W-B
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Tricia

My name is Steve Roberts and I am currently the medical director of the emergency department at Greenview Regional Hospital in Bowling Green, KY. It has come to my attention that there may be an opportunity to improve the EMS coverage in Warren County.

Both hospitals in the area are seeing a marked increase in patient visits over the past couple years. At Greenview, we have taken steps including increased hiring, improved patient flow processes and rededicating rooms to patient care to meet those increased needs. Our decreased wait times are allowing us to care for patients more efficiently. This prevents us from boarding patients or from leaving patients in the ED waiting room for hours unattended.

Both hospitals in Bowling Green are vital to the health of the community. We provide coverage of many services lines without the delays associated with extensive ED wait times or boarding. However, when only a small number of all 911 transports are taken to Greenview there is an opportunity to improve the process. We can provide appropriate emergency care to many of these patients in a more efficient manner than the Medical Center that apparently is operating its ED at or beyond capacity. When appropriate, we see the patients in our ED and transfer to the Med Center for admission. We are fully committed to providing care that best suits the needs of this community.

An alternate EMS choice with an independent dispatch will allow for the care of patients at a hospital determined by ability and availability rather than directing them to their parent hospital. This is a basic concept of emergency medical service models that is largely ignored in Warren County.

I am also a Regional Director for EmCare and have worked in hospitals and communities throughout the southeast. It is very unusual that a community this size is limited to one EMS provider. Competition has never done anything but improve the service to the community and I writing to voice my appreciation for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Stephen Roberts MD MHCM
Director Emergency Medicine Greenview Regional Hospital
Regional Medical Director EmCare

June 25, 2015

Tricia Orme
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of Legal Services
275 East Main Street, 5W-B
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Ms. Orme:

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is proposing to change the certificate of need (CON) review criteria for ambulance services in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Instead, they are proposing to allow a non-substantial review process, which still requires the burden of proof. I support the proposed changes and feel it benefits Warren County, KY and other areas where there is a need. Warren County is the only county in Kentucky that has two hospitals and one EMS service where the ownership is solely one facility. This not-for-profit EMS is structured as an LLC, which excludes them from complying with the Open Records Law in Kentucky and transparency. Therefore, policies, procedures, and other business information are not available to the public, physicians, or lawmakers.

Bowling Green is the 3rd largest city and has the volume and need that would support another provider. Another provider would decrease delays in transfers and would enable the ability to handle future growth without placing additional burden on a sole provider.

I support the proposed EMS changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zachary Simpson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Zachary Simpson, M.D.



Greenview Medical Group
746 Campbell Lane, Ste.101
Bowling Green, KY 42104
phone: 270-843-9510
fax: 270-843-9511
theallenclinicgreenview.com

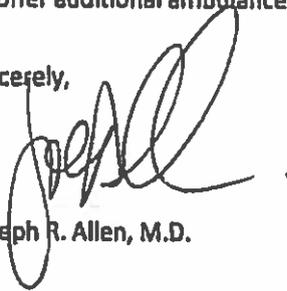
June 25, 2015

Tricia Orme
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of Legal Services
275 East Main Street, SW-B
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Ms. Orme:

This letter is written in support of the proposed EMS regulation amendment to 900 KAR-5:020. This new CON process would still allow the burden of proof. The current EMS situation in Warren County does not: (1) allow my patients to be taken to the facility of their choice, and (2) does not always allow patients to be taken to the closest facility during an emergent situation. With a population of over 100,000, this would not create a burden for tax payers. I believe it is in the best interest of my patients to offer additional ambulance and emergency transportation services.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Allen, M.D.



June 24, 2015

Ms. Tricia Orme
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of Legal Services
275 East Main Street, 5W-B
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Ms. Orme:

On behalf of the nearly 140 physicians and nurse practitioners at Graves-Gilbert Clinic, and the over 300,000 patient visits we provided in 2014, we are writing to express our **support for the administrative regulation amendment to 900 KAR 5:020.**

We support the proposed changes by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services regarding the Ambulance Service CON process (section V item A). Monopolies without transparent records are not conducive for efficient cost effective care. Patients in Warren County need to have choices regarding care locations. This community needs more good news like this.

We applaud the proposed change by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services pertaining to Magnetic Resonance Imaging Equipment (section IV item B). These are very strong positive changes that will improve patient access to services, reduce costs and help payers such as employers and the Commonwealth of KY. Here is an example. A large employer in our region conducted a price search for their self funded employees benefit plan. They discovered prices paid at our physician owned, office based MRI service was the lowest cost in over 50 miles.

Regarding changes to Ambulatory Surgical Centers, we would hope that Cabinet for Health and Family Services would continue the significant progress mentioned above and eliminating the review criteria in its entirety. Elimination of CON requirements for Ambulatory Surgical Centers has the potential when combined with savings generated by eliminating the MRI and ambulance service CON requirements to significantly decrease healthcare costs of Kentucky residents. Failing that, deletion of parts 6b and 6d of section V item B would make the rules manageable. Physician owned Ambulatory Surgical Services are reimbursed less than hospital facilities. In short they are cheaper yet quality and patient satisfaction are equal to or exceed hospital facilities. Physician owned ASCs are more efficient.

Ms. Tricia Orme
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
June 24, 2015
Page 2

For almost 80 years, we have been the overwhelming provider of healthcare services to the Medical Center and the citizens of South Central Kentucky. Since 1974 there have been many changes in healthcare. However the need for better access to quality, low cost patient care remains a constant.

Assumptions and guidelines used in the last few decades have grown to be outdated and obsolete. Plans that initially were designed to support services have now created unnecessary constraints on competition. These barriers have in essence created monopolies that **result in inefficient and higher cost health services.** Attempts in our area at creating alternative, lower cost, and competitive services are met with stiff resistance.

Unfortunately, CON rules that started with noble intentions are now used to artificially protect territory and prop up prices. This has resulted in higher costs to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, its employers and the citizens of South Central Kentucky. Higher costs create an impediment to patient access and hurt our employers and governmental payers. This economic drain "**on the whole for the benefit of a few**" reduces amounts available for reinvestment in vital services and jobs which in turn adversely impacts the lives of our citizens.

We all know the obsolete and often misused arguments in defense of CONs. The reality over the last several decades is they promote monopoly type environment. **Monopolies do not create lean efficient enterprises.** It is time to recognize the long term detrimental effects of the CONs as barriers to lower costs and patient access.

Once again, on behalf of the nearly 140 physicians and nurse practitioners at Graves-Gilbert Clinic, and the over 300,000 patient visits we provided in 2014, we are writing to express our **support for the administrative regulation amendment to 900 KAR 5:020.** Most specifically the proposed changes pertaining to Magnetic Resonance Imaging (section IV item B) and the proposed changes regarding the ambulance services (section V item A).

We also ask that you reconsider parts 6b and 6d of section V item B which pertains to Ambulatory Surgical Center. This small change will help bring high quality low cost services to the community.

Respectfully,

Graves-Gilbert Clinic

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven Paul, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the typed name "Graves-Gilbert Clinic".



GRAVES GILBERT CLINIC

June 18, 2015

Tricia Orme
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of Legal Services
275 East Main Street, 5W-B
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Ms. Orme:

This letter is written in support of the new CON process. This new CON process would allow my patients to be taken to the hospital of their choice. Our current application process is lengthy and expensive for new applicants. I believe it is in the best interest of my patients to offer additional ambulance and emergency transportation available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anson Hsieh". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Anson Hsieh, M.D.

June 26, 2015

Tricia Orme
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of Legal Services
275 East Main Street, 5W-B
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Ms. Orme:

My name is Randall Davidson, and I have been an ER physician in the Bowling Green, Warren County area for the past 18 years. I would like to voice my support of the proposed EMS regulation amendment to 900 KAR 5:020.

Bowling Green currently has only one EMS provider, a provider that is owned and operated by The Medical Center at Bowling Green. This impacts a patient's ability to choose the facility where they wish to receive care and often inhibits patients being taken to the closest facility during an emergent situation. Both hospitals in this area have seen and will continue to see an increase in patient visits to the Emergency Department, and both hospitals provide the same level of services with physicians practicing at both facilities. With Bowling Green currently the 3rd largest city in the Commonwealth, the volume and need for another EMS provider is present.

This new CON process would allow patients the right to choose. Therefore, I believe it is in the best interest of the community to offer an alternative to the current EMS service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall Davidson", written in a cursive style.

Randall Davidson, M.D.

June 24, 2015

Tricia Orme
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of Legal Services
275 East Main Street, 5W-B
Frankfort, KY 40621

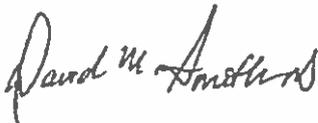
Dear Ms. Orme:

This letter is written in support of the new CON process. This new CON process would increase the referrals to the hospital of the patient's choice and provide the closest hospital in a time of emergency. I support the new CON process for my patient's best interest.

I would like to go on the record in support of the proposed amendment because it will strengthen public and private ground ambulance services as well as improve the health, safety and welfare of Kentucky citizens.

The current CON process is lengthy, expensive and time consuming. The new CON would expedite this review process. Thank you for your time and consideration on the EMS CON process. This process if passed would help the citizens throughout the Commonwealth and I feel it would help reduce healthcare cost to our Kentucky citizens and tax payers.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Smith, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David M. Smith, MD

Pediatric Associates of Bowling Green, KY LLP

1211 Ashley Circle ~ Bowling Green, KY 42104-3399

Phone 270-782-8700 ~ Fax 270-782-8704

J.S. Smith, M.D. ~ Z.G. Fraser, M.D. ~ J.C. Smith, M.D. ~ J.L. Bitterling, M.D.

June 23, 2015

To Whom It May Concern;

I understand that the Cabinet for Health and Family Services has proposed an amendment for reviewing Certificate of Need for new ambulance services.

This letter is written in support of the new CON process. This new CON process would allow my patients to be taken to the hospital of their choice. Our current application process is lengthy and expensive for new applicants. I believe it is in the best interest of my patients to offer additional ambulance and emergency transportation available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zahid Fraser". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Zahid Fraser, MD

June 25, 2015

Tricia Orme
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of Legal Services
275 East Main Street 5W-B
Frankfort, Kentucky 40621

Re: EMS Services for Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Tricia,

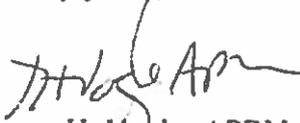
My name is Thomas Vogler and I currently serve as a Family Nurse Practitioner in the emergency department at Greenview Regional Hospital in Bowling Green, Kentucky. I am very receptive and supportive of any actions that would improve EMS services for my community.

I have lived in Bowling Green all my life and have been in the health care field for 20 years. I have had the opportunity during that time to serve at The Medical Center as a staff nurse for 15 years (most of that time in the ER), and I am currently afforded the opportunity to serve as a Family Nurse Practitioner at Greenview. We are fortunate to have 2 hospitals that serve this community faithfully. Where things are a little one-sided is due to the fact that there is only one EMS service that is under the direction of one hospital. This tends to promote an uneven division of labor for our communities health care needs. That fact most often gives the bulk of the EMS patient load to The Medical Center. Greenview is a highly competitive hospital that works tirelessly to improve through-put to serve our community quickly and efficiently. We are more than capable of sharing the load of Bowling Green's health care needs for EMS patients.

Any alternative that would include another choice of EMS, that has an independent dispatch, would help level the playing field and offer an alternative to an EMS service that is under direction of a parent hospital. These are widely excepted practices through-out other EMS structures, and are for the most part ignored here in my home town.

If nothing else this letter serves as my voice of support for having alternative, and broader EMS coverage for my community. Competition always tends to improve services and I believe that EMS is no different. It is would be my hope for my community and the patients we serve that an additional/alternative to our current EMS service could be reached. I appreciate your consideration on this very important matter.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas H. Vogler APRN
ANCC Board Certified Family Nurse Practitioner
EmCare/Greenview regional Hospital



Tricia Orme
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of Legal Services
275 East Main Street, 5W-B
Frankfort, Kentucky 40621

Dear Ms. Orme,

I'm the Executive Vice President of EmCare Alliance Division, which provides the Emergency Medicine and Hospitalist Medicine providers for TriStar Greenview Regional Hospital. I have recently become aware that Warren County only has one EMS provider and it is actually owned by another hospital in town. This is rather surprising for a town as large as Bowling Green and is different than most towns of similar size. I support the proposed EMS regulations by the Cabinet of Health and Family Services. I manage Emergency Departments in Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia and truly feel that competition is better for the patients. Greenview Regional Hospital has made great strides in the last several years in Emergency Medicine and Hospital Medicine Care. Through process improvement and additional staff we have been able to decrease our throughput metrics to allow faster, improved quality care with decreased wait times.

It appears most 911 transports go to the Medical Center, which owns the EMS service where the patients end up waiting very long times and often leave there and come to our facility for care. In an emergency, time is of the essence and a patient needs to be transported to the closest appropriate facility that can provide the care in a timely manner. Both ER's provide the same level of service and physicians even practice at both hospitals.

Bowling Green is the 3rd largest city in Kentucky and deserves better. The patients deserve better. Choice is good and in this case choice can be life saving. Please approve the changes, which will allow two ambulance services in Warren County.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Sincerely,

Robert R. Page III M.D., M.B.A.
Executive Vice President
EmCare Alliance Group
Robert.Page@Emcare.com
615-830-8044



MCPEAK VISION PARTNERS

June 24, 2015

Tricia Orme
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of Legal Services
275 East Main Street, 5W-B
Frankfort, KY 40621

Dear Ms. Orme:

This letter is written in support of the proposed administrative regulation amendment to 900 KAR 5:020. Warren County is the only county in Kentucky that has two hospitals and only one EMS that is owned by one of the hospitals. The absence of a balanced EMS service impedes my ability to practice medicine and does not allow patients a choice where they wish to receive care. The current situation does not always allow the patient to be taken to the closest hospital but instead the hospital that owns the ambulance service. Time is of the essence during any emergency. It is extremely important for the patient to be taken to the closest emergency room and in many cases could mean the difference in life and death. Both emergency rooms provide the same level of care, and physicians in the area practice at both facilities. With Bowling Green currently being the 3rd largest city in the Commonwealth, the volume and need for another provider is present. This would help decrease delays in transfers and would ensure the ability to handle future growth.

Thank you for your time and consideration on the EMS situation in Warren County, Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Aaron J. Porter, M.D.

108 Bravo Boulevard
Glasgow KY 42141
Phone 270.651.2181
Toll-Free 1.800.422.7348
Fax 270.651.2183

1403 Andrea Street
Bowling Green, KY 42104
Phone 270.781.4909
Toll-Free 1.800.362.2086
Fax 270.843.9678

mcpeakvision.com

Darren Fentress, M.D.

June 18, 2015

To whom it may concern,

This letter is written to support the certificate of need change for emergency medical services. The current process puts undue burden on patients and their families. I believe it is in the best interest of my patients to allow transport to the hospital of patient's choice.

Thank You,



Darren Fentress, M.D.

JOHN O. FITTS, M.D.

BETH A. BRYANT, M.D

ASSOCIATES IN CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE • CONSULTATIVE, DIAGNOSTIC, & INVASIVE CARDIOLOGY

**DIPLOMATES OF:
AMERICAN BOARD INTERNAL MEDICINE
AND
SUBSPECIALTY BOARD OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE**

June 22, 2015

To whom it may concern:

Re: Certificate of need for ambulance service at Greenview Hospital

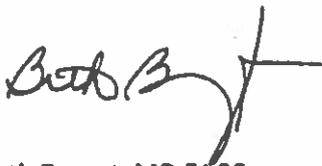
I am a practicing cardiologist in Bowling Green, Kentucky for 18 years. In this time, our community has grown and continues to grow. I have an increasing number of "lives" I care for in our community. Since 2013, I exclusively practice at Greenview Hospital although I am employed by a Graves Gilbert Clinic which is a multispecialty clinic. My patients prefer to be cared for at Greenview Hospital (outpatient and inpatient). I feel we need an ambulance service for Greenview Hospital given the growing patient preference and physician preference to practice at Greenview Hospital.

The current ambulance service does not openly bring my patients to Greenview. I feel that patient care is compromised when the patient's preference is declined or not offered or not encouraged.

I feel it is important that the "certification of need" be relaxed so Greenview Hospital may have their own ambulance service.

I believe it is time that patient preference and physician preference be heard.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Bryant". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Beth Bryant, MD FACC